Development of coal resources in Orissa

592. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government for the development of coal resources in Orissa;

(b) what are the schemes drawn up for that purpose during the Seventh Five Year Plan period; and

(c) which are the coal mines identified in that State for modernisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) The geologically proved reserves of coal in IB Valley and Talcher coalfields in Orissa are over 5,000 million tonnes. Apart from undertaking further regional and detailed exploration to establish and prove additional coal reserves in Orissa, detailed exploration is also being undertaken by agencies like the CMPDI, MEC and the Mining Directorate of the State Government for identification of specific mining blocks and preparation of geological reports and detailed project reports. To facilitate exploration and development of coalfields in Orissa, a new Regional Institute has been created within CMPDI and a separate unit within the South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. has been set up at Bhubaneswar.

(b) and (c) Schemes/projects under formulation during the Seventh Five Year Plan are given below:—

Coalfield	Name of Mine	Ultimate production capacity (in MTY)
1	2	3
IB Valley	1. Samaleswari OC	3·00
	2. Gopalpur OC	5·00
	3. Lakhanpur OC	5·00
	4. Lilari OC	0·80
	5. Belpahar II OC	0·60
Talcher	1. Ananta OC	4·00
	2. Kalinga OC	8 00
	3. Lingraj OC	6 00
	4. Gopal Prasad OC	5·00
	5. Ananta UG	1·00

The underground mines will deploy modern longwall mining technique; opencast mines will also involve greater degree of mechanisation so as to achieve higher productivity.

Non-Conventional sources of energy potential in the country

593. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast potential for solar, wind, biogas, and biomass energy sources in the country;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government for exploring these non-conventional energy sources; and

(c) what programme has been drawn up therefor during the Seventh Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources have taken steps to intensify research and Development to undertake demonstration projects and to support large scale extension activities in respect of matured technologies such as bio-gas, solar energy, wind energy etc. threughout country.

The State Governments/nodal agencies, public institutions and voluntary organisations have been actively involved in these programmes which have become popular and effective particularly in rural areas where they have been taken up. These